

Parish of St. Joseph, Morningside
Feast of the Holy Family, B

Pulpit Plan

Theme	:	The Holy Family is a model for our Parish Family
1 st Reading	:	Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3
Responsorial Psalm	:	Ps 105
2 nd Reading	:	Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19
Gospel	:	Luke 2:22-40

- This time of the year is really a **FAMILY** time.
- Together with the summer holidays, parties, family gatherings and visits, it is only natural that our attention should also be on our **own families**.
- The 'togetherness' of this season reminds us of happy times we have experienced in our **families**
- Today's feast, like nearly all the Christmas liturgies, focuses on **FAMILY!**
- But perhaps we are being invited to go a little deeper than just our family relationships...
 - a little further in our reflection during this season...
 - beyond our biological ties and bonds!
- Our Gospel tells the story of the *Presentation of Jesus in the Temple* and the prophesies of Simeon and Anna...
- Just as this ceremony brought Jesus and his family into a close spiritual bond with their faith community,
 - So this Feast day reminds us that **our families are part of the broader religious community**
- It is in our families that the foundations of trust, justice, truth, integrity and respect are laid...
 - It was in his family, that Jesus learned these things too!
 - It was in his family that he matured in understanding of how important these foundations are in life!
- The **Church is a family** too...
 - we soon discover that things are the foundations of our faith too!
- The Church is a place where spiritual bonds are not just formed but nurtured, where we learn to live out the virtues of faith, hope and love in a community with others.
- And, just as Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived their lives centred around the Temple, we are called to **invest in our parish community** and recognise its great value for us!
- **Family** stability is critical for the future of our society
 - But this is true not only of our individual families, it is also true of our **parish families**.
- Every family, including a parish family, has a mission to build up the Church and increase the Kingdom of God in the world;
- To be a community of love in which people experience a sense of belonging; and, to be a beacon of light and hope to others.

- It is good to feel love but it is also important to love those around us
- So today let us not limit ourselves to mere admiration for a holy household...
- Let us commit ourselves to active participation in our community and in our spiritual family of the Church this coming year!
- The Church, established by God, is – as we have said so often – called to evangelize even in these most difficult of times!
- Every family and every parish must have this same missionary outlook.
 - We must radiate Christ to the world – a world in desperate need of his love and peace.
- It is essential we nurture our biological and spiritual family to ensure we do just that!